

JUL 31 2006

Atty. Docket No. CQ10139
PATENT APPLICATIONAMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/037,560REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 19, 21, 23, 24 and 26 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 21 has been amended to correct its dependency, as it previously depended on claim 17, which has been canceled.

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 19, 21, 23, 24 and 26, stand rejected as being obvious from Abraham in view of Boebert. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least for the reasons stated below.

With respect to claims 1 and 13, it is admitted in the Office Action that Abraham does not disclose defining two object types and assigning an object type to each object, and that the assigning is done irrespective of the access rights of the user. Of course, as can be clearly understood, the system disclosed by Abraham is specifically directed at controlling access to objects based on users' access rights. For example, Abraham's title is "Method and Apparatus for Controlling Access to Data Elements in a Data Processing System Based on Status of an Industrial Process by Mapping User's Security Categories and Industrial Process Steps" [emphasis added]. That is, Abraham clearly teaches that the access should be controlled according to user's permission to perform certain process steps. In explaining the mapping feature, Abraham states that "the security category field is used to differentiate between users who have access to data element based on the status and/or location of the data element" col. 11, lns. 20-22, [emphasis added]. Thus, while the claimed invention controls process access to object irrespective of the user initiating the process, Abram teaches to the contrary.

Atty. Docket No. CQ10139
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/037,560

Boebert also discloses a security mechanism that relies on user's access permission. See, e.g., Col. 10, lns. 51-54: "Multi-Level Secure (MLS) Computer is capable of recognizing data of varying sensitivity and users of varying authorizations and ensuring that users gain access to only data to which they are authorized." Therefore, Boebert also requires that "[t]here must be a method whereby the identity of a user can be authenticated." Col. 11, lns 16-18. To implement his idea, Boebert teaches to construct enforcement table, such as that shown in Boebert's Figure 5b, wherein the permission to perform a certain action is determined according to the process domain (e.g., originated locally or via the internet) and the object type, examples of which are given in Figure 6. Boebert states that the "Domain/Type relationship is used to define the modes and consequence of access by process to objects." Col. 17, lns. 30-31.

Taking Abraham and Boebert in combination, as suggested in the Office Action, the combined disclosure and any suggestion thereof still falls short of the claimed invention. That is, from Abraham one gets the idea of permitting access according to the user's authorization and the object type; while from Boebert one learns to permit operation according to a process domain and an object type. Therefore, in combination the most that can be suggested is a system that permits access according to the user's authorization, the process domain and the object type. Such an idea does not read on or suggests the invention claimed in claim 1. The system of claim 1 makes the determination based on "trust group value of the requesting process, the trust group value of the target object, and the object type," and is irrespective of the user. At least for this reason, Claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Abraham and Boebert.

Atty. Docket No. CQ10139
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/037,560

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submit that Abraham does not disclose the limitation “defining an action rule for each combination of process trust group value, object trust group value, and object type” as alleged in the pending Office Action. The cited support for this allegation is Figure 8 of Abraham. However, Figure 8 and the relevant disclosure of Abraham do not disclose or suggest this limitation. Rather, Abraham discloses that the table is used to manage the security of an object when an object either changes category or changes location. Thus, the “rules” disclosed in Figure 8 of Abraham only relate to changes in object’s category and object location, but fail to disclose or suggest rules based on a combination of process trust group, object trust group, and object type. Boebert fails to remedy this deficiency. Therefore, even taking the combined disclosure of Abraham and Boebert, the resulting teaching fails to suggest this claimed feature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 13 are allowable at least for the above reasons. Claims 2-6 and 8-12 depend from allowable claim 1 and are, therefore, allowable by definition. Claims 14-16, 19 and 21 depend from allowable claim 13 and are, therefore, also allowable by definition.

With respect to claim 23, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection at least for the following reasons. It is alleged that Figure 15 discloses the cited limitation: “wherein when a process is created in said RAM from an originating object of one of said objects, said processor assigns to said process a process trust value equal to the object trust value of said originating object.” Applicant respectfully submits that Abraham in general, and Figure 15 specifically, fails to teach this limitation. Rather, Figure 15 described the process for modifying the security

Atty. Docket No. CQ10139
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/037,560

access of an object to enable a user to view it. The example of Figure 15 has nothing to do with creating a process from an object and assigning to the created process a trust value. The only purpose of the example of Figure 15 is to show how an inaccessible item can be made accessible to a specific user: "since the security categories have been modified automatically, the user MFG1 will now be able to display the same EC1 and its AIs." Col. 21, lns. 20-22. Moreover, Boebert fails to remedy this deficiency, and the combination of Abraham and Boebert therefore fails to teach this limitation. TAccordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is allowable over Abraham in view of Boebert. Claims 24 and 26 depend from allowable claim 23 and are, therefore, allowable by definition.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Atty. Docket No. CQ10139
PATENT APPLICATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/037,560

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office this 31st day of July, 2006.



Mariann Tam